

GROWTH

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is on track with recent trends in population growth within the county.

“I think the concern was are we developing too fast, are we developing too many lots, but when you actually break it down by the year, it doesn’t seem to be the case,” he said.

Magistrate Steve Lochmueller added that some concerns appear to be regarding the construction of apartment units as opposed to residential housing. Lochmueller added that costs for single-family homes have resulted in more demand for apartment dwellings within the county.

Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes said according to the Kentucky Housing Corporation, Madison County’s housing shortage was 2,5078 houses short and predicted a shortage of 6,723 by 2029.

“That’s a pretty big deal right there,” Hughes said.

Lochmueller added that data can be misleading. “When you’re looking at data, you’ve got to consider, you’ve got two universities here that, you know, population goes up and down,” he said. “...We’ve got a lot of students and that kind of messes with the data a lot too. I think even on the public housing data, their census data is all wrong already for Madison County. We’re already over what they have on their census data.”

The court agreed the county is experiencing growth and doing what it can to make during the county’s housing development meets the residency needs in Madison County.

Sheriff surplus

The Madison County Sheriff’s Department reported a surplus in 2024. The office took in \$6,144,384.98 and had claims of \$5,813.17.38, leaving a cash balance of \$331,367.60.

Madison County Sheriff’s office administrator Mary Margaret Young said the surplus is attributed to not replacing a deputy and the increase of vacate fees from \$20 to \$60 last year. Inspections also increased from \$15 in office and \$35 for an out of office inspection. She added that property tax collections increased to approximately \$150,000.

In other business:

- The court approved final reading of the county’s official zoning map. The court also heard first reading of a general fund budget amendment that will be amended by \$22,859.42 and road department amendment that will increased to \$116,485.
- Appointed Kevin Johnson to the Madison County Tax Assessment Board.
- Agreed to apply for a United Spay Alliance grant for \$2,000 with a match of \$2,000. The court also heard a resolution a a \$10,000 grant from the Kentucky Historical Society America250 grant program. No match is required for the grant.
- Awarded the Judicial Facilities Maintenance and Janitorial Services bid to Absolute Best Cleaning of Berea. The final bid price for janitorial services was \$6,435 for the Madison County Courthouse and \$3,775 for the Family Court Annex. The maintenance management fee was \$14,800 per year for the courthouse and \$8,675 for the family court building.

Public Notice

The Madison County Fiscal Court passed Ordinance 2025-02 on March 11, 2025, and will have a second reading of Ordinances 2025-003 and 2025-004 during the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:30 a.m. on March 25, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Training Rooms A & B, at 560 S. Keeneland Dr., Richmond, KY.

View full postings at www.madisoncountky.gov/public-notices, or in person at 135 W. Irvine St., Richmond, KY by calling 859-624-4700.

HONOR

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40-year effort in advocating for the safe destruction of the nation’s chemical weapons stockpile, Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs Executive Director Steve Bullard presented the award, which is co-sponsored by the Association for Defense Communities and the Navy Federal Credit Union.

A citation on the Association for Defense Communities website notes that as the program director of the Kentucky Environmental Foundation, Craig Williams dedicated his career to safely eliminating chemical weapons. In 1984, when the U.S. Army initiated a plan to incinerate chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot and at sites around the United States, Williams organized local community meetings and his passion for this subject grew, according to the citation. It states further:

“In July 2023, he accomplished many of the goals he originally set out to do, including

making history by fulfilling America’s commitments to the International Chemical Weapons Convention. Williams founded the Chemical Weapons Working Group in 1990, bringing together leaders from Kentucky and other U.S. cities where chemical weapons were stored. In Kentucky, the Chemical Weapons Working Group eventually grew to be known as the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizen’s Advisory Board, of which Williams is chair.

“Throughout his career, Williams has worked closely with the U.S. Army, local congress people, and state and U.S. senators in the fight to protect communities from the effects of harmful chemical weapons destruction. Due to Williams’ advocacy, Kentucky fulfilled milestones for our nation by upholding international agreements, protecting communities and promoting safer ways to destroy chemical weapons. Williams fight for the safe destruction of chemical weapons was long and tireless, however, it displays his dedication to his community, the United States, and the environment.”

Williams, 77, continues his advocacy through the Kentucky Environmental Foundation.



Delta Gas employees construct beds that will be delivered during the Victory Garden Blitz.

BLITZ

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said Gardner. “We match the skills of our volunteers to the specific jobs needed to guarantee that the best craftspersons handle our cedar boards.”

“We need about 70 volunteers to manage all phases of the Victory Garden Blitz. Some people make sandwiches and others are deeply involved in construction and delivery of beds to homes, Gardner said.

“People who make a monetary gift make it possible for SB to provide raised beds at discount prices,” Gardner said.

“We have watched neighborhoods grow up around food production at home as people get to know each other and share their fresh produce.

“The Blitz is hard work and very heart-warming.” Gardner said.

Businesses and individuals who provide financial support for the project will have their name listed on the traditional five-foot banner that is posted on the BUF for six months.

Blitz participants receive a raised bed gardening booklet and access to a garden mentor who provides gardening advice and help.

Citizens can also visit the

BUF to see the many ways more than 100 raised beds have been installed on the farm.

Deadline for ordering raised beds is Saturday, April 5 or until all garden beds are sold.

To order your raised bed or volunteer for the event, visit www.sustainableberea.org or call 859-985-1689. You can also contact Betina Gardner for information about discounted raised bed prices at 859-358-4618 or betina@sustainableberea.org.

The community project, hosted by the Berea Urban Farm (BUF), is April 11-13, 2025, at 201 Adams Street in Old Town, Berea.

SOUTHEASTERN SEC CONFERENCE

2024-25 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Bridgestone Arena • Nashville, TN

First Round Wednesday, March 12	Second Round Thursday, March 13	Quarterfinals Friday, March 14	Semifinals Saturday, March 15	Championship Sunday, March 16
16 South Carolina Game 1 Noon CT	9 Arkansas Game 5 Noon CT	8 Ole Miss Game 9 Noon CT ESPN	1 Auburn Game 13 Noon CT ESPN	
13 Texas Game 2 25 minutes after Game 1	12 Vanderbilt Game 6 25 minutes after Game 5	5 Texas A&M Game 10 25 minutes after Game 9 ESPN	4 Tennessee Game 11 6:00 p.m. CT	2 Florida Game 14 25 minutes after Game 13 ESPN
15 LSU Game 3 6:00 p.m. CT	10 Mississippi State Game 7 6:00 p.m. CT	7 Missouri Game 12 25 minutes after Game 11	3 Alabama Game 15 Noon CT ESPN	
14 Oklahoma Game 4 25 minutes after Game 3	11 Georgia Game 8 25 minutes after Game 7	6 Kentucky Game 12 25 minutes after Game 11		

Craig Loftis
State Farm

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Business directory

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INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Perhaps I can help.

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